

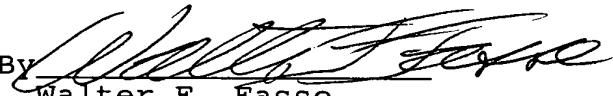
REMARKS:

- 1) A few editorial corrections and clarifications have been made in the specification and in claim 10. These amendments are supported by the substance and the context of the original disclosure and do not introduce any new matter.
- 2) An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed together with this Voluntary Amendment. Please return a signed acknowledgment copy of the Form PTO-1449.
- 3) Favorable consideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 to 39, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

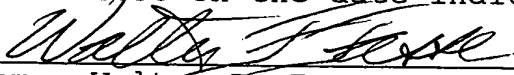
Gerhard SCHMITZ et al.
Applicant

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Encls.: postcard

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail, in an envelope addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

 5/3/04
Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: May 3, 2004